

March 18, 2020

A message from FPOABC

Good Day everyone, I have been receiving multiple questions regarding service companies suspending annual alarm maintenance and testing. Although this is not an official opinion of the FPOABC, I have been in discussions with the Office of the Fire Commissioner on this subject. They are working on an official opinion on this matter that I will share with you once I obtain it.

Unofficially, the consensus is that First Responder and public safety is paramount during the COVID-19 crisis, this situation has forced us to take drastic measure to limit the exposure and reduce the spread of the virus. Many Department including mine have suspended inspections, public education and hall tours. It is expected that service providers would follow suit. My hope would be that these providers would respond in an emergency situation to ensure a life safety device is not left offline (some have indicated that this would be the case), otherwise the only alternative solution would be for the property owner to initiated a fire watch until the property can be brought back on line. The other recommendation is to ensure documentation is added to the property file that annual testing has not been completed because o the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hope this sheds some light on the situation, I will provide more once I here more from the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Respectfully,

**President**

**Marco D'Agostino**

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**Fire Prevention Officers'  
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